

Going Dutch

September

In this issue

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FAWCO Symposium Voting from Abroad AWC Red, White & Blue Gala Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice

American Women's Club of The Hague





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Going Dutch September 2016



Thanks to the hard work of the Gala Gals, the AWC Red, White & Blue Gala was a smashing success



It will be hard not to be jealous when you see photos of what our Members did on their amazing tour of Iceland



Our volunteers were treated to a special luncheon in May catered by our own Sheyla Karman

The Magazine of the **American Women's Club** of The Hague

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AWC Clubhouse

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goingdutchmag@gmail.com

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AWC Mission Statement

The AWC is an association formed to provide social and educational activities for American women living in the Netherlands and to promote amicable relations among people of all nations, as well as acquiring funds for general public interest. Membership in the club is open to women of all nations who are friendly and welcoming to American culture. The association does not endeavor to make a profit. The AWC is a 100% volunteer organization.

4 GOING DUTCH

SEPTEMBER 2016 5















AWC 2016 - 2017 Board Installation





Message from the President

by Becky Failor

fter talking to some of our Members this summer, it's clear there is a sense of uncertainty regarding the future, both their personal future and the entire world's. The US is facing a very important Presidential and Congressional election which many feel could greatly alter the economy and social climate for years to come. Our Members from the UK have seen the results of the BREXIT vote, which will certainly impact the relations of the UK and EU for the foreseeable future if not forever. The serious reduction in oil prices has affected some of the leading employers in Holland and created uncertainty for some of our Members regarding how long they will be living here. Other Members have said they are changing travel plans to avoid certain countries or not attending music or social events that will attract large crowds because of the fear of an attack. These feelings of uncertainty can be so unsettling.

Thank goodness that the AWC is a bastion of certainty and consistency. You can rely on us to have a fun Kick Off event (see following page). Please bring your partners along to our Welcome Back BBQ on Saturday, September 24 (see page 21). For over 20 years we have held our Prinsjesdag Luncheon at Garoeda Restaurant and we will be there again on Tuesday, September 20 (see page 20). There's also Chat, Crafts & Cake, Daytime and Evening Book Clubs, Tennis Group, Heart Pillow Project, the Holiday Bazaar, and so much more. Every year you can be certain that your Membership in the AWC will bring you many opportunities.



If you are feeling uncertain about the future, I encourage you to log onto *GroupSpaces. com* and check the calendar or flip to the center pages of this issue of *Going Dutch* to find something to do with your Club. You can be certain that we will be there for you. While I am writing this, a number of Members are working with Vice President **Trena Cormier** to develop a wide



range of opportunities for you, our Members.

Another thing you can rely on is this magazine being mailed to the address listed for each Member in *GroupSpaces.com*. In order to be certain you keep getting your copy of *Going Dutch*: 1) be sure you have renewed your Membership no later than September 30, and 2) be sure you update your address if you move. You can edit your own membership information anytime at *www.groupspaces.com/ AWCTheHague/updateprofile*.

I am proud that our Club has improved the lives of people we will likely never meet, giving them a more certain and brighter future, through the donations from the funds raised at the AWC Red, White & Blue Gala in April. The hard work of the Gala Committee and the generosity of those attending raised €30,000 (go to page 22 for further details and photos). You can be certain that the €10.000 given to Antoniushove Hospital will certainly help the Look Good Feel Better program aid women dealing with appearance changes due to cancer treatments; the €10,000 given to Stahili Foundation will certainly help rescue and educate children who have been exploited by for-profit orphanages in Kenva; and the €10,000 given to SPOSA Child will certainly help educate girls on the Philippine island of Negros who have been sexually exploited. Our Gala has reduced the uncertainty in the lives of women and children who will benefit from these >> donations.

Fall Kick Off

by Trena Cormier

Join us as we "Kick Off" the new Club Year at the AWC! During our Open House format, you can drop in when it is most convenient for you. Come learn about the new Activities and Tours that have been organized to get us all involved after our summer breaks. By hosting both evening and daytime hours, we hope to cater to everyone's schedules.

Registration will be open for 2016 Oneof-a-Kind Activities, Tours and other events which you will find featured throughout this issue. Space for all activities is limited, so please sign up early to avoid disappointment. You can also learn about our Ongoing Activities. Board Members and Committee Chairs will be onsite to answer any questions. Support will be offered for new users of *www.GroupSpaces. com*, our Member-only website that is used for registration for all AWC activities and tours. We will provide drinks and nibbles.

Wednesday, September 14 6 – 8 p.m. and Thursday, September 15 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. AWC Clubhouse



Message from the President (cont.)

As I mentioned, an element of uncertainty is the US Presidential Election. If you are like me, you want to be with friends when you hear the results. The "Who's the President?" Breakfast, organized by Overseas Americans Remember with leadership by our own Roberta Enschede, Jessie Rodell and Tove McGrew, brings Americans and Dutch together to hear the elections results. It is held at the Kurhaus in Scheveningen on Wednesday, November 9 at 5 a.m. The Kurzaal is decorated with American flags and the flags of the 50 states. There are TV screens so everyone can watch the results come in as well as a jazz band. This is a wonderful opportunity for Americans of both political parties to welcome our new President with a sense of excitement for the future. Go to *www.electionbreakfastkurhaus.nl* to get your tickets.

I am certain that my time with each of you will bring me joy and a smile.

Best wishes,



Ramblings from the Editor

by Melissa White

Hard to believe that summer is already coming to an end (especially since it took so long for summer weather to arrive in Holland). Hopefully yours was relaxing and fun. Mine was definitely unpredictable and adventurous. The logistics involved in sending my two daughters to different African countries for marine conservation volunteer programs and in coordinating my husband James' and my trek across England with another couple

Giving up on a goal because of a setback is like slashing your other three tires because you got one flat. ~ Bernajoy Vaal

was enough to make my head spin. Unfortunately, there was another reason that my head was spinning: just before summer began I managed to fracture my skull.

I don't remember anything about breaking my head, which is probably just as well. Luckily James was home and heard me fall in our bathroom or this story might have had a very different ending. Granted, I don't consider this a near-death experience. I didn't require stitches or surgery, which meant I got to keep my hair. However, I was unconscious and if he hadn't put me in a recovery position, I might have choked on the blood running from my mouth.

Having a concussion and a cerebral hemorrhage along with a fever earned me an eightnight stay at Leiden University Medical Center where my body was pumped full of high doses of antibiotics to ward off meningitis, which luckily I avoided catching. Ironically, the head injury didn't bother me until after my release when I started experiencing vertigo, however, while I was still in the hospital, the meds made me sick to my stomach. I'm afraid I don't really have the patience necessary to make a good patient. Every day the neurologists would stop by and ask me my name, where I was and what the date was, and every day I would ask them when they were going to stop giving me drugs that were making me sick. I would also ask them if it was okay for me to fly since our flight to the UK was less than one month away. I was so relieved when the meningitis culture finally came back negative so the IV could be removed and I passed my final neurology exam ("What is the name of the king?") and was approved to fly.

I was happy to be home and putting summer back on track (you can read about our trek across the UK in a future issue). I did find, however, that I got frustrated with the number of people who would stop me and ask me, "Are you okay?" Somehow I thought the fact that I was out walking the dog or attending my husband's company function would be proof that I was okay. In retrospect, I may have been a bit short in my responses to concerned friends and acquaintances. If you happen to be one of those folks that dared to show your concern, my apologies if I didn't give the best response.

Perhaps you are now wondering why I am sharing this with you. For those that heard rumors that I was sick. I wanted to assure them that I am alive and well. Also, bevond the fact that my daughters often accuse me of over-sharing, there could be a lesson in this for all of us we all need some kind of safety plan. My fall is another reminder that I need to have a safety plan in place for when my daughters move out and my husband is out of town. Something simple like a plan to contact a local friend daily when James is away with the understanding that if she doesn't hear from me and can't get ahold of me, she has permission to enter my house and check on me. I hope you do something similar.

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Membership

by Shirley Newlin

Welcome New Members!

Dena Haggerty Marlo Pettigrew

Support Fellow AWC Members

You probably already know that our Club consists of a very talented group of ladies, but you might be surprised to learn what a diverse variety of businesses are owned by AWC Members. You can find descriptions of their businesses and links to their websites at *www.awcthehague.org/site/newcomers/business-links*. If you are a Member who has a business that you would like to see included on our website, please send the business name, logo, email address, website link and a brief description to goingdutchmag@gmail.com.



2016-2017 Membership Dues

Membership dues for the 2016-2017 Club Year are due by September 30. If you have not already done so, please submit payment during Kick Off, at the AWC Front Desk or by electronic bank transfer to the AWC The Hague account NL42ABNA0431421757.

Did you know that any Englishspeaking woman may join the AWC?



Invite your English-speaking friends from other countries who have an affinity for Americans to join us today!

September Birthdays

Debbie van Hees-Cascio	1
Anne van Oorschot	2
Ineke Latour	2
Diana Diago Pena	3 3
Teresa Insalaco	3
Daniella Smith-Walonker	8
Toni Stapel	10
Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall	11
Sheila Gazaleh	12
Celeste Brown	15
Molly Boed	17
Natalie Essad	17
Ceci Wong	19
Susan Cave	19
Cynthia Lardner	20
Gabrielle van der Winden	20
SuzanneMacNeil	24
Naomi Keip	28
Loren Mealey	28
Sophie Dencher	30
Jane Gulde	30

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Ongoing Activities

Book Club: Daytime

The AWC Book Clubs are open to all book lovers and are always open to new Members. There is no obligation to attend every meeting or lead a discussion. We take turns bringing a snack. If you've always wanted to try out a book club, you have two options per month. You can now register yourself for either (or both!) Book Clubs on the AWC *GroupSpaces. com* website. Any questions? Please email **Teresa Mahoney** for the daytime group or **Rebecca Fry** for the evening group at awcthehague.bookclub@gmail.com. Happy reading!

The September Daytime Book Club selection is *In the Light of What We Know* by Zia Haider Rahman:



This first-time author earned the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, Britain's oldest literary prize. He explores the questions of love, belonging, science and war over the past half-century in the US, UK and South Asia. At the novel's heart is the friendship of two

men and the betrayal of one by the other. Thursday, September 22 10 a.m. AWC Clubhouse FREE

Recap of the April - June Discussion

The Road to Little Dribbling: Bill Bryson is a beloved author of humorous travel guides, humorous memoirs, and wellresearched but humorous books about the English language, William Shakespeare and, in *A History of Nearly Everything*, the history of nearly everything. Now, at 64, in what he curmudgeonly refers to as "his dotage," Bryson has fully embraced his curmudgeonliness. Twenty years after his highly successful Notes from a Small Island, Bryson has again traveled throughout Britain, ostensibly writing a travel book. The

major difference is that the travels described now most often serve as a framing device for Bryson to expound on what bothered him that day, including rude cell phone users, litter, uncomfortable benches, the destruction of our oceans, and poor grammar. Bryson is a talented writer and remembered fondly. but our members who'd never read his work before found him to be too much of a curmudgeon. We'd love to give Bryson some advice: Lower the "curmudgeon" setting and reset your writing style back to "droll." Between the World and Me: Ta-Nehisi Coates can craft sentences of beauty and power in what is unquestionably his own unique voice. On that we can agree. We agreed about little else in Coates's 172page letter to his son about being living in fear of losing his black body in a United States stewing in a racism of its own concoction. Some members thought his anger was too unmitigated, too ignorant of the progress black people have made in our culture. Others thought Coates was entitled to his anger, having grown up afraid in a Baltimore ravaged by the crack epidemic and in a family that thought beating him would protect him. And the questioning boy needed protection—from other black children masking their own fear with bravado and guns, from schools that squelched his curiosity and blamed him for their failure, and from cops free to harm or even kill his body. The "body" image is one that Coates uses relentlessly in the book. That along with the phrase "people who believe they are white" raised the ire of some members. Others thought the drumbeat of these phrases provided the rhythm to a masterpiece. You'll have to judge for yourself. The Children Act: Fiona Maye, highly

respected High Court Judge, is facing two personal dilemmas. Dilemma One: "Honey, I'm 60 and I want to enjoy our remaining years together, but you're distracted about something and we haven't had sex in seven weeks. Is it okay if I have an affair with the young statistician down the hall?" Dilemma Two: "My Lady, your ruling allowed the hospital to save my life over the objection of my Jehovah's Witness parents and I am glad to be alive. Can I come live with you? I promise we'll ignore the sexual subtext and I'll just do odd jobs for you and your husband." Ian McEwan lays out these dilemmas in canny, sublime detail, brilliantly capturing the subtlety and muddled depths of everyone's feelings. A master of fascinating detail, he weaves in other court cases, musical interludes and existential philosophy to produce a novel that satisfies intellectually and emotionally. Recommended.

Book Club: Evening

The September Evening Book Club selection



is *A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James: Marlon James is the first Jamaican-born author to win the prestigious Man Booker Prize. This novel explores the attempted assassination of Bob Marley in Jamaica in 1976 as well as its aftermath through the crack wars in

New York City in the 1980s and how Jamaica changed in the 1990s. Wednesday, September 21 7:30 p.m. AWC Clubhouse FREE Daytime Book Club Planning Ahead: Thursday, October 27: *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty Thursday, November 17: *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty December date TBA: *Everybody's Fool* by Robert Russo

Evening Book Club Planning Ahead: Wednesday, October 12: *My Name is Lucy*

Barton by Elizabeth Strout

Recap of the March Discussion

Song of the Shank: This historical novel was a fictionalized account of the life of Thomas Greene Wiggins, a mentally afflicted and blind slave who was also a preternaturally gifted child pianist. He and his talent were brutally exploited for the monetary gain of his owners. Although the stilted, pretentious prose is sometimes hard going for the reader, this book is a compelling and educational exploration of the perspective of slaves, slave holders, abolitionists, and the mood of America on the cusp of the Civil War. >> 16



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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 15

Chat, Crafts & Cake

Let's get creative! The AWC is open to all crafters. If you've been looking for an open space large enough to lay out that king-size quilt, or need more table space to organize your photo albums or scrapbooks, or just need an excuse to stitch, pack up your supplies and



bring them to the Clubhouse so you can chat with fellow AWC Members while you work. You might even be able to pick up some suggestions from a fresh pair of eyes. Each week, a different Member will bring a cake made from a never-before-tried recipe for tasting and critiquing. We're sorry, but babysitting is not available and thus we can't accommodate children. Questions? Contact: Suzanne Dundas at awethehague.crafts@gmail.com Tuesdays 10 a.m. – Noon **AWC Clubhouse**

AWC Guest Policy

Guests are welcome to participate in AWC activities and tours on a limited basis. As a nonmember, a guest is limited to attend two functions per calendar year and will be charged an additional nonmember fee. Only Members are entitled to use babysitting services.

Dinner Club

Dinner Club has a new organizer, Krishna Thakrar, and a new twist for our new Club Year: sometimes we'll eat at each other's homes and sometimes we'll eat out together at a restaurant. This is a fun way to share an evening with new AWC friends and to catch up with old Members while enjoying a great dinner. You don't have to be a gourmet chef to host Dinner Club in your home during the home-based Dinner Clubs. You just set a theme and ask guests to prepare a dish. For example, if the theme is Italian, then one person might bring antipasto, one brings bread, one brings Italian wine, etc. We understand space is a big consideration, so you can decide how many persons you can host, whether eight, six or four guests, and you will be a guest at someone else's home the next time. Help us bring in some creativity into this fun event! Register through GroupSpaces or contact Krishna at kthakrar2000@gmail.com to join in the fun, including whether you are willing to host. Saturday, November 5 Locations and meals vary Sign-up deadline: October 28 www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1068982

Heart Pillow Project

The AWC is in its 9th year of making heartshaped pillows to support the arms of breast cancer patients in local hospitals. Each pillow is made with tender loving care, wrapped in a plastic bag tied with a beautiful bow and a message signed by a volunteer. No sewing



skills are needed; just the ability to cut, stuff or wrap! What a wonderful way to meet new friends while contributing to a worthy cause. The emails we receive are so touching and show that women are linked everywhere to this terrible disease. We are proud to provide women with something not only practical, but comforting as well. If you can cut fabric, stuff fiberfill, thread a needle or tie a bow, we need you! No sign-up is necessary. For more information, contact **Jan de Vries** at awethehague. heartpillow@gmail.com.

Tuesday, September 6 Noon -2 p.m. AWC Clubhouse FREE Visitors Welcome www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1022908

Out to Lunch Bunch

If you're interested in making new friends and exploring new restaurants throughout The Hague, then this is the group for you! >> 18





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Ongoing Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 17

Rather than setting one specific day of the month, we will change our days each month in order to accommodate a variety of schedules. If you have a favorite restaurant in your neighborhood you'd like to share with the group, please contact 10:15 a.m. so class can start promptly at Kathy DeBest at debestik@comcast.net. This month we will have lunch at Lof der Zotheid (*www.lofderzotheid.nl*). The restaurant is located in Benoordenhout around the corner of the Van Hovtemaplein and can be reached by Bus 18.

Friday, September 30 Noon

Breitnerlaan 84. Den Haag **Registration deadline:** September 28 www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1066545

Pilates

Pilates is a form of exercise developed by Joseph Pilates which emphasizes body development through core strength, flexibility and body awareness. Pilates works the deeper, more stabilizing muscles of the spine and the abdominal wall. Doing Pilates makes you stronger, longer and leaner. Ineke Latour, certified STOTT Pilates® Instructor and AWC Member. will teach Pilates classes at the AWC Clubhouse. You will be monitored and corrected to enjoy responsible, safe and effective Pilates training. Email Ineke to sign up for these classes and pay her directly. Bring your own towel; Ineke will supply mats and props. All levels are welcome. Participants should arrive at the Club at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. € 15 per class Members (€ 20 per class nonmembers) Min 6 / Max 10 **Contact:** Ineke at Latour@globalswing.com

Tennis League

The AWC Tennis Group plays doubles every Tuesday in Warmond. Ladies move up and down the courts according to a ladder tennis system. The emphasis is on having fun! The league is available for all levels except true beginners. If you are interested in being placed on the waiting list to become a regular player or would like to be on the sub list, contact Molly **Boed** at mollyboed@yahoo.com. **Tuesdays starting September 6** (except specific holidays TBD) 1 - 3 p.m.**Dekker Tennis Courts**

Veerpolder 14, Warmond € 275 Members (€ 325 nonmembers)

Cancellation Policy

Members may reserve a spot for an AWC tour, activity or event in advance. Payment is required within five business days of the reservation or before the deadline date (whichever is sooner) otherwise your name will be moved to a waitlist. It is the responsibility of the Member to notify the Club at awcthehague.finance@gmail.com to cancel a reservation prior to the cancellation deadline. Please note that there will be NO REFUNDS (no exceptions) after the cancellation deadline. Members may find a substitute in lieu of cancellation provided that arrangements are made with the tour, activity or event organizer. Members shall be held responsible for their quest reservations in accordance with this policy.



Walkie Talkies

Taking a walk with friends is the perfect way to start your week! Join us for an energetic walk and talk. We meet in front of the Clubhouse each week and then walk to a variety of destinations between the beach, woods and city. Occasionally, we take longer walks which we announce on the AWC Facebook Group. Sign up for this group on *GroupSpaces.com* to get email updates or email Emily van Eerten at vaneerten@gmail.com or Greetje Engelsman at awethehague.newcomers@gmail.com.

Mondavs 9:30 a.m. FREE

Walky Barky

Walky Barky is the dog version of Walkie Talkies, but without the set schedule. Join us with your pooch for walks in the woods. We



have started a closed Facebook Group which all AWC Members with dogs are invited to join: www.facebook.com/groups/walkybarky. Members occasionally post their walking plans so others can join along.

Wassenaar Coffee & Conversation

Do you live in Wassenaar and environs and long for the camaraderie of the AWC without driving to the Clubhouse? One of the Members living north of The Hague will host a casual coffee at her home on the first Thursday of each month for Members and prospective Members.

Suzanne Dundas will provide information as to the hostess of the month and directions to her home when you sign up. Thursday, September 1 9 – 11 a.m. Ellen Koup's House FREE www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1065984



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One-of-a-Kind Activities

by Trena Cormier

RSVP directly on AWC GroupSpaces.com. Direct any questions to awcthehague.activities@gmail.com. Payment must be made within 5 calendar days of reserving or your name will be moved to a waitlist. Payment can be made in the Front Office by PIN or by bank transfer to the AWC account NL42ABNA0431421757.

Route of the *Gouden Koets* (Golden Coach)

Follow the route of the Golden Coach before King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima do so on Prinsjesdag. Join **Greetje Engelsman** (AWC Member and Dutch ex-



expat) for a royal walk from the Noordeinde Palace to the Ridderzaal (Knights Hall). Learn a bit about royalty and democracy as well as about the buildings and institutions along the route, what they once were and what they are used for today. If the group wishes, we can stop for coffee and/or lunch afterwards (at vour own expense). Friday, September 16 10 a.m. – Noon Meet opposite the Noordeinde Palace Noordeinde 68, Den Haag FREE Maximum 15 **RSVP by September 14** www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1066875

Card-Making Workshop Sampler: Tools & Technique

Are you familiar with simple stamping, but want to add a little something extra to your handmade cards? Then come discover something new at this workshop. From two-step stamping to embossing to triple punches, you're sure to learn something new. The class fee includes all supplies needed to leave with 10 beautiful cards and envelopes. Come spend your afternoon having a ball with a bear and a bevy of flowers! Email questions to JaimiesJoyfulStampin@vahoo.com

Sunday, Šeptember 18 3 – 5:30 p.m. AWC Clubhouse € 25 Members www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1066582



2016 Prinsjesdag Luncheon

Join us for our annual AWC luncheon to view King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima's arrival to open Parliament. The second floor of the Garoeda Restaurant is the perfect viewing opportunity for this traditional Dutch event. The King and Queen ride from Noordeinde Palace to the Binnenhof and back in the famous golden coach with military escort, bands and horse-drawn carriages. The pomp and circumstance makes this a "must see." If you have been before, consider making it an annual event. Lunch includes Indonesian rijsttafel buffet, a glass of wine, and tea or coffee. There is commentary in both Dutch and English to explain the events we witness outside the windows.



Plan to arrive by 11 a.m. as some streets are closed off for the parade. **Tuesday, September 20** 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Garoeda Restaurant Kneuterdijk 18a, Den Haag € 47 Members (€ 52 nonmembers) Maximum 50 *Cancellation deadline*: September 16 *www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1051970*

Welcome (Back) BBQ

Fall is here, long-time Members have returned from summer holidays and Newcomers have joined the AWC. A BBQ is a great event for partners and spouses, giving all of us a chance to "meet 'n greet." Hamburgers, veggie burgers and hotdogs will be grilled and served with side dishes. Soft drinks, beer and wine will be provided. Just bring yourselves! Saturday, September 24 6 - 10 p.m. AWC Clubhouse € 10 Members or partners (€ 15 nonmembers) Minimum 10 / Maximum 35 Cancellation deadline: September 21 www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1066530

Dutch Products Class Especially Helpful for Newcomers!

AWC Member and long-term resident of the Netherlands, **Carol Slootweg**, will explain Dutch cooking and cleaning products. She teaches cooking classes, so she is an expert in using local products and converting

American recipes. She and **Greetje Engelsman** have co-produced a book entitled *Dutch Products* which will be offered for sale for $\in 10$. Join this class and you will



never be confused about cooking or cleaning products in the Netherlands again! If you have any questions, contact Greetje at awcthehague.newcomers@gmail.com Thursday, September 29

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. AWC Clubhouse FREE RSVP by September 27 www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ >> 33 item/1066769



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2016 Red, White & Blue Gala

by Karla Kahn

The 2016 Red, White & Blue Gala was a fabulous event! We were thrilled that the beautiful dining room tables at the Nieuwspoort were filled with glamorous supporters and patrons. With an accumulation of over 100 auction donations, we were able to raise approximately \notin 30,000 for our beneficiaries.

We did what the AWC does best by gathering a team of enormously talented volunteers and working together to raise awareness and funds for a very important cause: the support of women and children locally and around the world. Our three beneficiaries covered a range of needs for women suffering the devastating effects of cancer treatment, and sexually and exploited children in the Philippines and Kenya.

Look Good Feel Better for women at MCH Antoniushove in The Hague is a community service program that provides useful information specifically tailored to help women deal with the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment. The workshops are designed to empower women with practical tips and tricks to boost their self-esteem and confidence while undergoing treatment. The Gala proceeds will help fund these workshops free-of-charge for local women undergoing cancer treatment in The Hague.

SPOSA Child is well known to the AWC as its founder, **Marilyn Tinsay**, is a Member of our Club. SPOSA provides rehabilitation and healing of sexually and physically abused girls through the gift of education. The Gala will support SPOSA's efforts to provide a complete education through sustained funding from the Scholarship Program for 13 girls, covering

costs such as uniforms, books and other school materials, physical education, transport to/ from school, meals, and reintegration counseling.

Lastly, **Stahili Foundation** works with families and community using education as a tool to end exploitation, keep children together, and break the cycle of poverty in Kenya. **Michelle Oliel**, also an AWC Member, is the co-founder of Stahili. As a beneficiary of the 2016 Red, White & Blue Gala, Stahili will use these funds to empower the children's guardians and allow them to give the children a life they deserve through education.

After months of planning and coordinating, everything came together on April 16 in a result that exceeded our expectations. This was only made possible through the support and donations of our Members, generous sponsorships, and contributions from the local and international business communities as well as our beneficiaries. We were assisted by Arielle Dundas as our MC and Jan-Wolter van den Berg as our auctioneer.

What a remarkable evening it was! Through sponsorship by Nieuwspoort, our guests enjoyed a lovely private venue with excellent food and service. Our guests were greeted with Prosecco and canapés while they perused the silent auction items in the lounge and enjoyed the melodic playing of pianist Katia Jij. What an amazing array and selection of auction items were offered: luxury French Riviera yachting cruise, priceless catered dinner parties, Hermès signed scarf, chef-autographed cookbooks, Porsche rentals, Russian boxing lessons, and children's summer camp. In addition to the venue bar, **Natalie Essad**, AWC Member and our own personal bartender, created our signature Gala Mojito cocktail for the evening. Making the evening more magical, Gala guests were soon escorted to the dining room which was abloom with statuesque glass vases with immersed white orchid branches and floating candles centered among crystal glowing votives that were designed and arranged by **Jan de Vries** and **Mallery Clarke**. The arrangements were so beautiful that many were sold, adding even more to the Gala revenue!





2016 Red, White & Blue Gala (cont.)

Continued from page 23

AWC President **Becky Failor** and Adam Sterling, Chargé d'Affaires of the American Embassy of The Hague, made outstanding speeches which were followed by a delectable gournet buffet. Afterwards we heard heart-wrenching stories of pain and heartwarming words of hope from each of our beneficiaries on what our support will mean to their organizations. We dined, laughed, and opened our hearts and wallets for the exhilarating live auction. Those who dared to stay late and kick off their heels on the dance floor were treated to the amazing sounds of the van Hoytema Band until 1 a.m. The time literally flew by, but the Gala will remain in our memories for a long time to come. By the end of the evening, we left with smiles on our faces while our three very deserving charities were given more hope for the future.

The story of the AWC Red, White & Blue Gala would not be complete without acknowledgement and a heartfelt thank you to the very wonderful women who made the Gala possible. Throughout the process, I never ceased to be amazed by their dedication and talent, both individually and collectively. Special thanks go to **Teresa Insalaco** for stepping up to the plate as Co-Chair and offering her unfailing support; **Jan de Vries**, Gala Advisor extraordinaire; **Kathy deBest**, Auction Manager; **Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall** who managed ticketing and PowerPoint presentations so very competently; **Jan Essad** for her coordination and procurement of auction items as well as **Mallery Clarke**, **Marilyn Tinsay** and **Sophie Dencher** for their diligence and assistance; **Sunita Menon** for her knowledge, advice and liaison coordination with beneficiaries; and **Julie Otten** for creating and managing our website. Additionally, I would like to thank Boy Frank and Melissa Morgenland with Nieuwspoort for their outstanding accomplishments with auction procurement. The event itself would not have been possible without the capable assistance of our many, many AWC volunteers, some of whom were also working guests, and some very talented friends of the AWC.



This is the AWC's one chance in the year to make a real and very public difference in our community. Many of our Members are guests in the Netherlands and through the fundraising efforts of the AWC, they are able to contribute to their community. The dedication of the AWC volunteers shows that we are not only enjoying life here but we want to be an active part of this international city.

Special Thanks to Our Gala Committee and Volunteers

Avanti Menon Ceci Wong Georgia Regnault Jan Essad Jessie Rodell Kay van der Made Silvia Calles Trena Cormier Donna Baxter Natalie Essad Menno van der Horst Anja Knoop Julie Mowat

Karen Carl Rebecca Fry Kandice Ardiel Quinn Rodell Joseph Onaghise Mary Claire Nthenge Lara Oliver-Tomic Emma Smits Patricia Parodi-Herz Ariane Chienang

Co-Chairs: Karla Kahn & Teresa Insalaco >> 26





With Deep Gratitude to Our Sponsors

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Anonymous (2) Paul & Suzanne Dundas Bill & Sue Merrick Brvan & Eileen Baker Greetje Engelsman-Postma Gerard Scholtes Ronald Copper Mark & Laurie Martecchini Gerard & Polly Spinnler

And a special thank you to Boy Frank and the Nieuwspoort Printrs Print &

Papier gave us a discount on the program printing.

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Bronze

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Mary Adams Flitz Events Kasteel de Wittenburg Novotel Hofweg Den Haag Hop & Stork BMW Forepark Prosecco Ristorante Italiano Gilbert Monod de Froideville Embassy of Azerbaijan ADA Jewelry Rachel Stewart Grand Hotel Huis Ter Duin Diana Pyrikova Bagel Alley Kurhaus Hotel Scheveningen Altro Restaurant Kiikduin BIT Grill & Café Georgia Renault Bronia's Fine Art

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Hugh Gregg & Becky Failor Hotel IBIS-Scheveningen Novotel World Forum, DenHaag Shoeby Luxury Apartments Delft Crabtree & Evelyn Restaurant Luden Carlton Ambassador Hotel Dawn S Black Photography Soofrench Mv Health Today Restaurant Van Der Dussen, Delft The Body Shop Apollo Hotel Hampshire Hotel Babylon Den Haag Automotive Corsalini, Rijswijk Cocolie Stahili Foundation

Booijmans Museum Corona Boutique Hotel Den Haag Ich Bin Ein Hamburger Berlage Office Shop The Penthouse Restaurant American Book Center Anja Knoop NH Atlantic, Kijkduin Hotel Des Indes Photo Americain Jan de Vries L'Occitaine The Chocolate Sculpture Embassy of Kazakhstan Pamela Schellekens Martes Rob Oliver Hotel van Oranje Noordwiik Westgeest Kitchen >> 28





















SEPTEMBER 2016 29

September 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Mark Your Fa Oct 11: Day Trip to Zwolle Oct 15: Wine Tasting Oct 20: Tour of British Roya Oct 27: Tour of Royal Archi Nov 5: Dinner Club Nov 12-13: AWC Holiday B	l Collection ves	1 Wassenaar Coffee and Conversation 9 a.m.	2	3
4	5 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m	6 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Heart Pillow Workshop Noon AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	7 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	8 AWC Board Meeting 10:30 a.m.	9	10
11 Remembrance for 9/11 2:30 p.m.	12 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m	13 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	14 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Fall Kick Off - Evening Session 6 -8 p.m.	15 Fall Kick Off - Daytime Session 10 a.m 2 p.m.	16 Route of the Golden Coach Walk 10 a.m.	17
18 Card Making Workshop 3 p.m.	19 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m	20 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. Prinsjesdag Luncheon 11 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	21 Pilates 10:15 a.m. Evening Book Club 7:30 p.m.	22 Daytime Book Club 10 a.m.	23	24 Welcome back BBQ 6 p.m.
25	26 Walkie Talkies 9:30 a.m	27 Chat, Crafts 'n Cake 10 a.m. AWC Tennis 1 p.m.	28 Pilates 10:15 a.m.	29 Dutch Products Class 10:30 a.m.	30 Out to Lunch Bunch Noon	





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www.access-nl.org

One of a Kind Activities (cont.)

Continued from page 21

Walking Tour Along "The Fred" Especially Helpful for Newcomers!



Come and join **Greetje Engelsman**, a Dutch "ex-expat," for a walk along the Frederik Hendriklaan, otherwise known as "The Fred," in the Statenkwartier section of The Hague (just around the corner from the Clubhouse). You will be introduced to many different shops including favorite spots to purchase fish, bread, vegetables, meat, or a good cup of coffee. Bring your shopping bags. After the walk, there will be an optional lunch at a local café (at own expense).

Wednesday, October 5 10 a.m.

Meet at the AWC Clubhouse FREE

www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1067020

Save the Date: Tour of Zwolle

Zwolle has a history going back 770 years. It is located on the river Ijssel and was a major trading center in the Middle Ages. The city has retained its rich architectural history having been spared during major wars and natural disasters due in part to its strong fortifications. Throughout the compact city center ringed by canals are many buildings from Zwolle's prosperous 15th century. The details for this tour were still being finalized when we went to print, but can be found on *GroupSpaces. com* or in eNews.

Monday, October 11 Details to be determined www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1068820

Wine Tasting Party

Join us for a wine tasting with some nibbles. We will taste a range of wines, including both reds and whites. The AWC will purchase everything, so you just need to come and enjoy.



Saturday, October 15 7:30 – 10 p.m. AWC Clubhouse € 10 Members or partners (€ 20 Nonmembers) Cancellation deadline: October 13. www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1068147

Dutch Etiquette Class

One of the most important aspects of living in and traveling throughout the Netherlands is getting to know the people and their customs. You will quickly learn that what you might consider to be customary and polite may differ substantially from what is expected in The Hague. Do not be misled by the sometimes seemingly brusque Dutch manner as behind it lies a friendly good humor and an old-fashioned dependability. This class is all about "Dutch Manners" and will help you to understand the differences in culture between the US and the Netherlands. You will learn more than just "facts," such as the Dutch kiss three times, eat with knife and fork, cycle on the sidewalk and walk on the bike lane. Join Greetie Engelsman to have fun in this special class!

Thursday, November 17 10 a.m. – Noon AWC Clubhouse FREE RSVP by November 14 www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/1067266

A Ceremony of Remembrance and Hope

by Roberta Enschede

To Remember – To Hope A simple memorial to bring people together Sunday, September 11 AWC Clubhouse, 2:30 p.m. All are welcome

This year 9/11 falls on a Sunday. I asked myself: should we perhaps remember on another, more convenient day and time? The answer is no. Memory is not convenient. It is what it is. That minute, that hour, that day is sacrosanct.

Fifteen years have passed since that shattered blue and golden morning. We remember where we were, what we were doing, who we called, who we knew that might have been in New York, at the Pentagon or on the plane that seared the verdant peace of a Pennsylvania meadow.

So many of us know or knew someone. In Wassenaar, a woman who works for the *gemeente* changed her plans. She was supposed to visit the World Trade Center that morning. Instead, she was having breakfast at her hotel just across the street. She saw the plane crash into the tower. A few years ago, when she read about our Ceremony of Remembrance and Hope, she called and said, "Good that this happens. We can't forget." I asked her to tell her story. She talked about what she saw and how for months she couldn't even recycle glass. She couldn't stand its shattering!

A very tough New Yorker, a Security Attaché at the US Embassy who'd seen more than any of us could ever imagine, told his story at the Ceremony two years ago. He talked about his best friend, a firefighter who went into the World Trade Center twice and didn't make it out the second time. He got permission from the family to tell the story of their son and brother. We will always honor his friend. Last year, we received a note from his friend's brother. "Who would think," he wrote, "that people so far away would remember." Several members of the AWC were directly touched:

"My friend died on AA73," the plane that crashed into the Pentagon.

"I lost a colleague and a friend on the plane that crashed at Shanksville."

"I was living in New Jersey. I knew so many people. I still don't know if I can talk about it."

As for me, I will never forget my first visit-Pilgrimage-to Ground Zero on December 24, 2001. It was cold, drizzly, gray and smelled of burned-out fire. I walked around the perimeter. There were thin, straggly Christmas trees. Hanging on their branches were little white cut-out paper angels-the kind a child would make. There were photos and candles on the ground. People came and went. I stood behind a young fellow who put down a laminated paper with some writing, a photo and a name: Mary Buffo. He kept trying to light a candle, but the wind kept blowing it out. When he finally succeeded, he knelt, placed a kiss on the photo and with slumping shoulders walked into the grav drizzle and devastation. Never did I want to reach out and touch someone or say something more than I did at that moment. I didn't do it. There were no words. There still are none.

There are no words for Squad One in Brooklyn. Theirs was the second ladder truck to arrive at Ground Zero. Twenty men sped over the Brooklyn Bridge. Eight men came back. Their firehouse is on the street where a former 5th grade teacher at the American School of The Hague grew up. A day or two later, I was sitting in the teacher's lounge. She came in distraught, crying, "Did you hear what happened to my firehouse?" The only thing I could say was, "Let's try to do something." We did. The school and community made a collection for the widows and 27 children of the men of Squad One. On December 26, 2001, we visited the firehouse, brought the collection and the toys and memory books the school kids had written in. When I asked one of the young firemen with deep Italian eyes "What else can we do," he answered, "Your prayers, we NEED your prayers."

That was almost 15 years ago. This is now. Just before I sat down to write this, I spoke with a Dutch friend who had just returned from a visit to New York with her family. They went Here in The Hague, Overseas Americans Remember and our friends from all nations will Remember knowing that out of the terror and devastation, One World Trade Center – The Freedom Tower rises 1,776 feet tall. It towers over New York City and the US—a concrete Testament of Hope!

Shawn Crowley, the recently arrived Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in The Hague will represent our government and share his own thoughts and memories. Dean Simpkins, the Regional Security Officer at the US Embassy in The Hague, will tell his story. Dean was working at a federal office just blocks

It was the worst day we've ever seen, but it brought out the best in all of us. ~ Secretary of State, John Kerry

to the 9/11 Memorial. "I remember everything about that day," she told me. "I was in the car driving. I was pregnant with Luca." Her eyes filled with tears as she spoke. "That memorial—all those names and the water. It all came back to me. Even the children were silent."

On September 11, beginning at 8:46 a.m., there will be four moments of silence at Ground Zero to observe the times each plane hit and each tower fell. At sunset, the Tribute in Light in the shape of the Twin Towers will burn until sunrise on September 12. At 9:37 a.m., there will be silence at the Pentagon and at 10:03 a.m. in Shanksville, PA. away. When I found this out, I asked him to join us. I also told him that the ceremony is not as big as it once was. He answered, "It doesn't matter. I want to do this. It is right that it takes place. I will be honored to come."

We hope you will join us at 2:46 p.m. on 9/11.

After the Ceremony, there will be an opportunity to register to vote.

Ceremony sponsored by Overseas Americans Remember



SEPTEMBER 2016 35

STAND UP Against Human Trafficking

by Mary Adams and Johanna Dishongh, Program Chairs



The 2013-2016 FAWCO Target Program focused on raising awareness of human rights for women. Fundraising for the Target Program opened our eyes to the situation of victims who have been rescued from modern slavery* still having a long journey to travel towards economic independence and self-sustainability.

The word "hero" is not usually associated with human trafficking, but heroes do exist. For example, every FAWCO Member who donated time, money and bras or bought merchandise from the Backing Women Boutique is a hero who helped us build a bridge of stability and hope for trafficked survivors in the Free the Girls program.

Further research has shown that communities and governments are already implementing an impressive slavery eradication tool set. The problem is that most people consider human trafficking as so ubiquitous and overwhelming that they do not believe that there is anything that a "normal everyday" person can really do to stop it. In other words, ignorance of our existing tools has become one of the root causes for rescue failures. Raising awareness about the current tools available at individual, community, corporate and international levels will have a dramatic impact on raising the percentage rate of sustainable rescue. The only way to change society's complacency on human trafficking is to invite people to select a tool that is the right fit for them.

FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation are proud to present our first Symposium, open to FAWCO Member Clubs as well as the general public, on October 8 – 9. The Symposium theme is *STAND UP Against Human Trafficking* by becoming an "everyday hero." The Symposium will include multimedia presentations, personal accounts of rescue and recovery, strategy and tools used by antitrafficking organizations, a networking forum, and interactive audience discussions. The Symposium will facilitate a candid exchange of views and information, insights, solutions and practical tool kits for participants.

Our featured speakers will represent the following organizations: the Dutch Rapporteur, the American Embassy, The CNN Freedom Project, CoMensha/La Strada International, and NGOs in sex and labor trafficking. Each of the speakers will have a story to tell about their tools from shelter to advocacy and prosecution, from social re-integration to vocational skills, from counseling to leadership training.

For more information, agenda and registration, go to: www.fawco.org/symposium.

Registrars: Julie Mowat and Angela Aerbersold

*"Trafficking in persons," "human trafficking," and "modern slavery" are used as umbrella terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Backing Women: Stand Up Against Human Trafficking Symposium October 8 – 9

The Symposium will cover two days, from Saturday, October 8 – Sunday, October 9 at Nieuwspoort, International Press Club of The Hague. The Symposium is open to all FAWCO Members as well as the general public.

Objectives

1. **Education and Awareness:** Human trafficking is human slavery.

- Understand how organizations partner and apply social tools to provide skills, literacy and safety that enable sex and labor trafficked survivors to become empowered to create a new life for themselves and their children.
- FAWCO's international involvement in human rights for women

2. **Take Action:** Motivate participants on how to stand up against human trafficking as "everyday heroes."

- Detect and Report
- Awareness and Education
- Conscientious Consumerism
- Policy-Making

Program Chairs are: Mary Adams and Johanna Dishongh.

If you are interested in learning more about our Volunteer Committees, please contact: Mary Adams at vpfundraising@ fawcofoundation.org or Julie Mowat at jjbbmow@msn.com Additionally, the Symposium will create a networking space for open dialogue with sustainable rescue operations, civil society, press and other stakeholders. The Symposium will facilitate a candid exchange of views and information, insights, solutions and practical toolkits.

Participants will include national and international human trafficking organizations, women's rights groups and networks, academic institutions, FAWCO Member Clubs, media and private sector.

Registration can be completed online at *www.fawco.org/symposium*



36 GOING DUTCH

AWC and the Arts

by Jane Choy

RSVP for all Arts Activities directly on AWC *GroupSpaces.com*. Direct any questions to jechoy@me.com

At Home in Holland: Vermeer and his Contemporaries from the British Royal Collection

A royal visit from Great Britain: this fall, the Mauritshuis will exhibit a selection of the most important 17th-century Dutch genre paintings from the British Royal Collection. The selection contains representations of daily life as depicted by painters of the Dutch Golden Age, and offers an exceptional chance to see over twenty masterpieces from the Royal Collection, its largest loan of paintings to a Dutch museum to date. The Royal Collection, held in trust by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, contains unique highlights from the oeuvres of famous painters such as Gerard ter Borch, Gerrit Dou, Pieter de Hooch, and Gabriel Metsu. The highlights of the exhibition are *The Music* Lesson by Johannes Vermeer and A Woman at her Toilet by Jan Steen. Save time by buying vour entrance ticket online in advance. Please note that there is an additional surcharge for this exhibit with your entrance fee or Museumkaart as reflected in prices below.



Thursday, October 20 6 – 7 p.m. Mauritshuis Plein 29, Den Haag € 10 Members (€ 12.50 nonmembers) PLUS Museum Entrance Fee (€ 16.50 or € 2.50 with *Museumkaart*) Minimum 12 / Maximum 15 *Cancellation deadline*: October 10 www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/ item/988780

Tour of Royal Archives

King Willem I founded the Royal Archives in 1825 to manage the House of Orange's archives, library and historical collections. The archive comprises the personal archives of members of the House of Nassau and the House of Orange-Nassau, including miniatures and royal gifts as well as books and documents from the 13th century to the present day. It also contains the archives of the Royal Household and its Officers and other individuals connected with the court. The present building in the grounds of Noordeinde Palace was completed in 1899. The archives are not open to the general public, so this is a very special tour. We will meet at the gate of the Royal Stables at Hogewal 17 at 9:30 for the short walk to the Archives. Please bring a valid ID. Thursday, October 27

10 – 11:30 a.m. € 10 Members (€ 12.50 nonmembers) Minimum 12 / Maximum 22 Cancellation deadline: October 14 www.groupspaces.com/AWCTheHague/item/ 1068146



FAWCO Corner

by Karla Kahn and Julie Mowat

Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, a United Nations NGO with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council www.fawco.org.

Success! Conclusion to 2013 – 2016 Free The Girls Target Program

Did you know that the two-year fundraising campaign culminated in contributions totaling \$172,089.33 with participation across every region of FAWCO? And were you aware that our Club played a substantial part in this success? AWC The Hague was recognized as a Diamond Donor, contributing over \$15,000 to the program, which was chaired by ex-AWC President Johanna Dishongh. Due to this financial support, Free The Girls now has the time and resources to more fully focus on what they are really about: the women

they service through their initiative. They have already witnessed a significant rise in socioeconomic status across all three of their program locations over the past year. Want to learn more? Free The Girls Executive Director

Courtney Skiera-Vaugh will be speaking at The FAWCO Foundation Stand Up Against Human Trafficking Symposium in The Hague on October 7 - 9.

2013 - 2016

DIAMOND DONOR

FAWCO Target Program 2016 – 2019: Education: Empowering Women & Girls through Knowledge & Skills

Over the next three years, FAWCO members (all AWC Members are automatically members of FAWCO) will take a deep dive to learn what matters in girls' education. We will explore the issues which prevent millions of women and girls from receiving qual-



ity education around the globe. The Target Project is a way for FAWCO members to make an actionable investment to empower women and girls through knowledge and skills. Through the support of The FAWCO Foundation we will employ the energy and generosity of our member clubs by fundraising for a single project supporting women's and girls' education.

The Target Program offers opportunities for local FAWCO Clubs to make a global difference. Do you have a project to propose? Submissions deadlines for project proposals are September 30. Please check out the application packets at *www.fawco.org/global-issues/target-program/target-program-education*.



Voting from Abroad: Part 1

by Roberta Enschede

Just because you don't take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.

~ Pericles, 4th Century BC.

If you are a US citizen, you have the right to vote and you should!

You are entitled to vote even if:

- You do not plan to return to the US to live
- You do not own property
- You have lived abroad for a major part of your life
- You have no present US address
- You have never lived in the US, but are a US citizen

What Is Your Voting Address?

The last place you resided in the US—no matter how long ago

What If You Have Never Lived in the US?

You can use the voting address of your citizen parent(s) if they are from:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. If their state is not listed, submit an FPCA anyways. The laws are changing all the time.

What Do You Have to Do?

Request an Absentee Ballot with a form called the FPCA: Federal Post Card.

What Is an FPCA?

It is a dual form to both 1) register and 2) request an absentee ballot.

When?

An overseas citizen is now required by law to submit an FPCA each year. Note: State requirements and deadlines vary, so submit now.

How?

The easiest way to get an FPCA is online from the Federal Voting Assistance Program, the official US government site for overseas citizens: *www.fvap.gov*. You can download the FPCA and also the exact address of your voting district on this user-friendly site.

What If Your Ballot Does Not Arrive?

If you have requested a ballot with the FPCA and it doesn't arrive in due time, you are eligible to use the FWAB: Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. You can easily search for this at *www.fvap.gov*.

Tracking Your Ballot

You can track your ballot online and you can call your voting district to check and see if your FPCA has been received and they have sent the ballot. The telephone numbers are also online.

Be Aggressive

If you have a problem, don't hesitate to call your voting district directly. Sometimes, they simply do not understand that Americans live abroad.

Voting Assistance

I will be available at the AWC General Meetings and various other locations where there are concentrations of US citizens. Feel free to contact me at roberta@robertaenschede.com or 065 425 3650. Or if you'd prefer, you can call the FPCA toll-free from the Netherlands at 0800-022-8213.

Voting from Abroad: Part 2

by FAWCO Voting from Overseas Commitee

Register Now!

Did you know that the countdown to the Presidential Election is faster for overseas voters? Since the law requires ballots to be sent to overseas voters 45 days before Election Day, which is on November 8, we have a shorter time in which to register, and to ensure we can take part in this important election. The clock is ticking! Register now, if you have not done so; if you have registered, urge other overseas Americans to do so. Your country needs to hear your voice!

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

Here's our main message for every American we can find:

1. Register to vote/request a ballot for the 2016 election. Send the registration form/ballot request to your local election official according to the instructions that accompany it.

2. Receive and complete your ballot. States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for federal office.

3. If your ballot does not arrive in time (by October 8), send a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB). If your regular ballot arrives after you have sent off your FWAB, vote and send it, too, and let the local election official decide which one to count.

4. Find two more Americans and get them to register!

For tasks 1 and 3, use the online resources available to you to, including:

- Our dedicated FAWCO site: *fawco*. *overseasvotefoundation.org*
- FAWCO's non-partisan partner, US Vote Foundation: www. overseasvotefoundation.org
- Federal Voting Assistance Program: www.fvap.gov

Feel free to send questions to us: voting@ fawco.org



The AWC was proud to have Associate Members vote for the first time at our April General Meeting.

Helping Dutch Veterans

by Becky Failor

I am proud when I get the opportunity to tell people about the good works done by the AWC. These special acts are the result of the donations of time and money by you, our Members, and by those who come to our fundraising events. The stories of acts of love and giving that the AWC does always touch people's hearts, such as collecting Sinterklaas gifts and preparing Easter baskets for local children in need, designing gingerbread houses for hospitals, making heart pillows for breast cancer surgical patients, and hosting a TLC dinner, our newest project.

I attended Dutch Veteran's Day events held in The Hague at the Malieveld with my brother, who is a veteran of the US Navy. We were impressed by the variety of booths for groups that aid and support Dutch veterans. I was touched by the outpouring of support for these brave men and women who are our allies in many places where our US military serve.

One of the groups was VeteranenHond (*www.veteranenhond.nl*) who provide dogs to aid veterans dealing with physical and emotional impacts from their service in the Dutch military. A special emphasis is on dogs who help veterans with post-traumatic stress syndrome.

When we spoke with the volunteers with VeteranenHond, I realized they were a subset of HulpHond Nederland, one of the beneficiaries of past AWC fundraising. I introduced myself as the President of the AWC and explained about the money we had previously raised and about Yankee, the puppy the AWC helped fund to become a therapy dog for children (featured in a *Going Dutch* article in April 2015).

They told me of an event to raise money for VeteranenHond called Walk 4 Veterans that takes place September 21–24 (*www*. *walk4veterans.nl*). This multi-stage walk from Weesp to Gorinchem can be done in parts or in its entirety. The route goes along the historic "Waterline," an area purposely flooded to stop invaders from proceeding during the Eighty Years War (1568–1648). Funds will be raised by individuals and teams gathering sponsors who support their walk. Proceeds will be shared between three veteran charities: VeteranenHond, I Can Hike and Veterans Meeting Center.

As I was leaving the tent, one of the volunteers gave me a plush stuffed dog toy with a VeteranenHond ribbon that reads *Hulp voor Helden* (Help for Heroes) and expressed her thanks to the AWC for our support. I will happily give this cute guy to the first AWC Member that tells me she will participate in the Walk 4 Veterans event and will pledge my support for any AWC Members who walk. So get out there and raise some money for Dutch veterans!



AWC Members, please connect with us on LinkedIn https://nl.linkedin.com/in/ awcthehague

Community Development

by Susan Cave and Mary Ann Nation-Greenwall

Holiday Bazaar 2016

Please save the weekend of November 12 – 13 for our annual AWC Holiday Bazaar. The AWC invites you and your family and friends to support and enjoy this wonderful event. This holiday celebration gives you the opportunity to find that unique gift for which you've been searching. There will be a wide variety of baked goods, jams, oils, honey and spices. There will also be beautiful ceramics, artwork, a wide range of unique hand-crafted jewelry and clothing items, men's gifts, wine, children's gifts, and so much more.

There will be activities planned just for the children and Santa Claus will make an appearance. Visitors may pay with cash, PIN or credit card. For anyone interested in volunteering to help on the Bazaar days or helping bake prior to the weekend, please sign up at Kick Off or stay tuned for sign-up information in the next issue of *Going Dutch*.

Save the Dates

Thursday, September 15: Committee members at Kick Off to recruit volunteers for all philanthropic events, including spring fundraising event

Thursday, November 10: Presentation of checks to 2016 Gala recipients

Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 12: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday, November 13: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Children's Gifts** November 1 – 29: Collection of tagged gifts Friday, December 2: Deliver gifts **Sinterklaas** Monday, November 7: Desin collection of

Monday, November 7: Begin collection of toiletries Friday, December 2: Deliver donations

Gingerbread Houses

Thursday, December 1: Daytime decorating Thursday, December 8: Evening decorating Monday, December 12: Deliver the houses



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Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice

by Seanette Meserole

celand in the winter is an island of extremes: fire and ice. Volcanoes, a variety Lof lava rock formations, geysers, bubbling mud pits, natural steam vents, thermal pools, milky blue lagoons, waterfalls, glaciers, a crevice created by shifting tectonic plates and more! The landscape changes dramatically with each mile: from barren snow covered fields to swampy bubbling mud pits; from sharp lava rocks jutting from the grass to a rolling landscape where the lava has bubbled just beneath the surface creating thousands of hills the size of huge ant mounds; from a mountain range with a snow-covered glacier on top to turquoise blue glacier tongues carving out valleys in between the mountains; from grassy fields with friendly furry horses to sleek seals frolicking among the floating icebergs in a glacial lake; and, finally, from clear skies filled with the brightest stars to skies blazing with dancing Northern Lights. How could we not visit this magical place?

After all my research, coupled with planning and assistance from Charles and Iain at the American Travel Center, I was bursting with excitement to take a group to visit this mysterious country, a place I'd never been. The interest in this trip for 10 was so popular it sold out in just one day and quickly became a trip for 14, with a waitlist. What a trip of a lifetime it was!

Our travel group consisted of seven fabulous couples, one of which was celebrating an anniversary. Little did these couples know what they were in for with me as their organizer—chatty, easily distracted and loses anything that isn't permanently attached—but I can't imagine a better group to travel with.

Highlights of Our Trip

First Icelandic meal: We sampled the Chef's Tasting Menu complete with lavaheated bread rolls and a steaming presenta-



tion of mussels and grilled Minke whale (which was amazing) at the Fiskmarkadurinn (Fish Market). Thank goodness the smoked puffin was out of season as I don't think we could have eaten that beautiful bird. We all agreed the meal was one of the best we had ever had!



Seeing our tour vehicle for the first time: This monster-Mercedes off-road vehicle was the envy of every tour group out there and Gummi was an exceptional and knowledgeable guide.

Our first stop at Hraunfossar: Here were waterfalls that flowed from under the volcanic rock and Barnafoss, the frozen children's waterfall. I truly believe you could hear a collective sigh of wonder as we took in the vista before us and at every other sight after that.



Ice Cleats: Realizing we needed them, putting them on, and not losing them! It became very clear after walking on the slippery compacted snow that wearing ice cleats was a must. As this photo shows, sometimes it took a village to get them on. >>46



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Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice (cont.)

Continued from page 45



Laugarvatn Fontana Spa: Our first spa day was at an outdoor thermal bath surrounded by a glacial lake. Most of us tried both areas of water, but is it any surprise we preferred the heated water? We even had the chance to eat delicious rye bread that was baked in the thermal mud. The attendant said he'd never had a group eat the entire loaf. I guess we were really hungry after lounging around in the hot water. **Waterfalls:** We saw about eight waterfalls, but they were all so different: tall, wide, flowing, frozen, over lava, under lava, down basalt rock, and more. Some you could climb up to, some you could walk up to. Amazing!

The day the sun came out: Sue sank in snow so deep she toppled over. The pictures and landscape were amazing. We had been driving in a sea of white for two days, and then the sun peeked out and lit up the horizon. It was breathtaking.

Strokkur Geyser: It was amazing to watch the steam building up and creating a blue bubble that quickly exploded into a fountain of water over 50 feet high. It happened very quickly and was difficult to catch on camera, but the videos are amazing.

Reykjanes Peninsula Lunar Landscape: Gummi, our guide, told us that Neil Armstrong had trained in Iceland before he went



to the moon, and later when he came back. he told Gummi's grandfather, who was his guide, that he never needed to go to the moon because it was just like Iceland. We believed him! This area was so unbelievably otherworldly. One of the natural steam vents blew, which sounded like a train whistle, as we crossed the bridge and were spraved with so much steam we couldn't see. Then, as



the steam hit the cold wind, we were pelted with biting sleet crystals. Muggy warm, then wet, cold and frozen—this was the quite possibly the coldest I've ever been. However, it was worth it because I had never seen anything like it.

The glacier: Since it was winter, the ice blues of the glaciers were covered with

snow and somewhat difficult to see. Gummi told us he could get us relatively close, but we could not walk on the glaciers without mountain-climbing gear. However, when he discovered we had a geologist in our group and that we all really wanted to get on the glacier, he drove that monster truck as close as he could, and we got on the edge of the glacier. It was a great day!



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Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice (cont.)

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The Northern Lights: The opportunity to see the Northern Lights was what initially intrigued us about the trip. We soon realized they are very elusive, even if you have a clear dark sky. Luckily for us, they appeared during dinner (and not at 3 a.m.), so a group viewed them from the parking lot and the rest of us trekked in the ice up to the hill behind the hotel and set up the cameras on the tripods. The pictures were stunning! Fortunately. Gummi warned us that what vou see with your naked eve is nothing compared to what you capture on film. Without the camera, the Northern Lights looked like grey wisps of clouds. On camera, the colors exploded! After dinner, our waiter urged us to hurry out to the parking lot because the lights were dancing and bright. The guys were able to see them but by the time the rest of us got there, they had already gone. It just reinforced how lucky we were to see and capture them the first time.

Blue Lagoon: Our second spa experience was at the infamous Blue Lagoon, a natural thermal pool with milky blue water rich with silica minerals. The weather did not cooperate with us on our last day, but we didn't let it interfere with our day at the spa. A torrential rainstorm had just blown in. You might be surprised to learn that I think the storm made the day even more memorable. One husband joined us ladies in upgrading to the luxury package which included a private changing room and shower, fruit plate and drinks, a private swim-through entrance into the lagoon, and most importantly, hooks to hang up our towels. An inside hook might not seem that important, but on our day it most certainly was. The others had to hang their towels on racks that were being pelted with freezing rain and wind, making their towels useless. The warm water felt so good in the freezing rain, and we loved slathering silica mud on our faces for an impromptu facial. However,





the experience that brings the biggest smile occurred when working our way to the bar against the wind and rain and being forced to walk backwards (all of us in a line) while holding our drinks so the wind wouldn't swish it all away. I wish we had a picture of that!

Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon: We watched seals frolicking among the glaciers and sliding down the snow covered hill. In the warmer months, tourists can take a boat and float

alongside the seals and blue glacial ice.

Sunset at at Dyrholaey Peninsula: Crashing waves, black rock beach and lava formations.

As you can see, this trip to Iceland with an awesome group of AWC ladies and their spouses was the trip of a lifetime. We will have memories to share for a lifetime. If Iceland is not on your bucket list, it should be!



Announcements

World Port Days Rotterdam



Wereldhavendagen (World Port Days) is a large, annual maritime event that will appeal to your whole family. During this festive weekend, you can get a glimpse behind the scenes of Europe's busiest port through a wide range of activities, such as ship tours, demonstrations, excursions and exhibitions. Port companies demonstrate exactly what their ships and other sailing equipment are capable of in a continuous program of spectacular presentations with breathtaking stunts. pure power and nautical expertise. You can experience it all from the Erasmus Bridge or from the grandstand on the Wilhelminakade. This year's theme is The Smartest Port, allowing visitors to become acquainted with the many innovations in the port.

Rotterdam Europoort Friday, September 2 through Sunday, September 4 www.wereldhavendagen.nl

Embassy Festival

You can take a cultural trip around the world at this festival which spotlights the many different cultures of The Hague through music,



art, dance and culinary delights. The musical program includes pop, jazz, folk and classical. Activities geared towards children will allow them to experience various cultures and open their eyes to different ways of playing. The international market features global delights. The Embassy Festival is organized in close co-operation with the Municipality of The Hague's Department of International Affairs and the city's many embassies, spotlighting the different cultures that reside in the Dutch administrative capital. Free entrance. *www. embassyfestival.com*

Saturday, September 3 Noon – 8 p.m. Lange Voorhout, Den Haag

Food Truck Festival

Whereas once food trucks were referred to as "roach mobiles," they are now very trendy and offer a wide assortment of gourmet foods. See what all the fuss is about when Westbroekpark is transformed into one large attractive open-air restaurant during this festival with free admission. In addition to a large variety of tasty foods, there will be live music and other entertainment. For hours, go to: *www. festival-trek.nl*



Thursday, September 8 – Sunday, September 11 Westbroekpark Kapelweg, Den Haag

Introduction to Pickleball

Pickleball is a racket sport that combines elements of tennis, platform tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is easy to learn, popular for all age groups and fun to play. Pickleball



one of the fastest growing sports invented in the US and it's now spreading all over the world. There's a very active pickleball community in Amsterdam where AWC Member **Krishna Thakra**r has been playing regularly. She is now excited to bring the sport here to The Hague. Join her to try this fun and easy to learn game at one of the upcoming clinics for € 6:50 (paddles and balls will be provided). Contact: Krishna Thakrar at kthakrar2000@ vahoo com

Fridays, September 9, 23 or October 7 10 – 11:30 a.m. Sporthal Houtrust Laan van Poot 22, Den Haag

Open Monument Days

Open Monumentendag (European Heritage Days in the Netherlands) is designed to bring people into historical buildings in an effort to rally support for the preservation of historical monuments. About 4,000 historical buildings and sites across the country will be open to the public free of charge. Here's your chance to enter some buildings that are not normally accessible to the public. This year's theme is *Icons & Symbols.* **Countrywide**

Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11 www.openmonumentendag.nl

Closing of Storm Surge Barrier

Once a year, the Maeslant Storm Surge Barrier in Hoek van Holland is closed as part of an annual test of the system in preparation for hurricane season, which runs from October 1 to April 15. Opened in 1997 as part of the Delta Works to protect Rotterdam Harbor and surrounding cities, it is one of the largest moving structures on Earth. Check the website for timing if you want to witness this unique engineering marvel. Tours in English are available; reservations are strongly encouraged. Keringhuis Saturday, September 17 Maeslantkeringweg 139, Hoek van Holland *www.keringhuis.nl*

River Days Festival (Vlietdagen)

From Saturday, September 17 to Sunday, September 18, the waterway the Vliet comes alive in Voorburg and Leidschendam with old timer boats, markets, crafts, food, music and more. *www.vlietdagen.nl*

Girls' Chess Tournament

To promote women's chess, Frank & Free is organizing a number of chess tournaments for girls in an effort to give girls' chess in the Netherlands as much attention as that of their male counterparts. This tournament is one of the efforts to discover potential Masters and Grandmasters within the country. The participation fee is \notin 10 to be paid at the door. Feel free to come and witness the competition for yourself.

Saturday, September 24 From 10 a.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel Van Stolkweg 1, Den Haag

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Announcements (cont.)

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36th International Kite Festival



Scheveningen is ideally situated for kite-flying with consistent prevailing winds blowing along the beach. During this annual free festival, international kite builders and enthusiasts come together to show their skills in the air in front of the Kurhaus. The skies will be filled with a breathtaking spectacle of kites of every shape and color including teddy bears, dragons, fish... you name it.

Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25 Scheveningen Beach www.vliegerfeestscheveningen.nl

Roller Derby in The Hague

Did you know that The Hague has a women's roller derby league? It's called The Parliament of Pain and you can see a demonstration game on Thursday, September 29 so you can get an idea of what roller derby is all about. You can also try it yourself at their open training on Sunday, October 2. Perhaps you'll enjoy skating, falling and hitting so much that you'll decide that roller derby is your sport.



Portrait Painting Workshop



All skill levels of painters are invited to join the Whidbey Island Fine Art Studio for a rare opportunity to combine Dutch history and American painting education by studying with award-wining American artist Teresa Oaxaca within the walls of an historic castle in the heart of the Netherlands. This five-day painting course will incorporate painting, art and theory lectures, and a guided visit to the Kroller-Muller Museum as well as a tour of Kasteel Keppel.

Monday, October 3 – Friday, October 7 Kasteel Keppel, Laag-Keppel www.whidbeyislandfas.com

Who's the President? Election Breakfast

The morning after the US Presidential election., OAR ~ Overseas Americas Remember in cooperation with the US Embassy of The Hague will organize the 10th Who's the President? Election Breakfast at the Kurhaus in Scheveningen. The organizers expect a maximum of 1,200 attendees as they bring together the American, Dutch and international communities by providing a special gathering place to watch the results of the election. Republicans and Democrats stand side-by-side and respond according to their preferences. The US Embassy invites members of the government, international organizations and the diplomatic corps. The Kurzaal is transformed into a red, white and blue American election hall decorated with flags of the 50 states. In the spirit of an American community event, the Jazz band of the American School of

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The Hague provides the music as it has since 1980. People leave to go to school and work knowing who the President will be for the next four years and contemplating how the decision of US voters will impact their lives and the state of the world. Buy your tickets early as this event always sells out: *www. electionbreakfastkurhaus.nl* Wednesday, November 9 5 - 8:30 a.m. Kurhaus

Gevers Deynootplein 30, Den Haag

T.rex Coming to Leiden

For the first time, a Tyrannosaurus rex (T. rex) is coming to Europe! The skeleton of a female



T. rex was excavated in 2013 in Montana by Leiden's Naturalis Biodiversity Center. On September 10, this T. rex will be put on display for the first time, in all its glory, at the exhibition T. rex in Town at Naturalis in Leiden. At this exhibition, you will be transported back millions of years into the world of the T. rex. Lifelike robot dinosaurs will bring the Cretaceous period to life. You will come face-to-face with Trix, the only T. rex in the world mounted with a real skull. This skeleton is one of the three most complete of its kind in the world. The exhibition will also explain the details about the turbulent life of Trix gleaned from her bones. In the Dinolab, the paleontology staff are hard at work preparing the Triceratops fossils excavated in America when Trix was found. Trix will go on a worldwide tour starting in June 2017, but will return in 2018 to her permanent home in the Dinosaur Gallerv in a new Naturalis Museum that is still to be built. Timed tickets are required to visit Trix, which can be purchased online at www.naturalis.nl.

Jewish History of The Hague

Through November 13, the Historical Museum of The Hague highlights 350 years of Jewish history. The first Jews began to settle in The Hague at the beginning of the 17th century. These Portuguese Jews were followed by Jews from Germany and Eastern Europe. Each of these groups established their own synagogues and a Jewish Quarter arose around the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church). This exhibition explores themes such as religion and the hustle and bustle of daily life. It also covers the terrible fate of the city's Jewish community during World War II. At the beginning of the war, the city was home to around 17.000 Jews, more than 12.000 of whom had perished by the end. After the war, the survivors built up an active Jewish community once again. The exhibition also examines present-day Judaism in The Hague. In addition to items from the Municipal Archives of The Hague and the museum's own collection, the exhibition features special objects from the collections of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of The Hague and the Dutch Israelite Religious Community of The Hague, as well as a large number of items loaned by the Jewish Historical Museum. www. haagshistorischmuseum.nl >> 54

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Upcoming Art Exhibit

by Vesna Southwick

The first art exhibit in the AWC's Clubhouse will be displayed from October through December, and is entitled *Scenes from Nature* by members of Artist International Nederland (AIN). AIN is part of Shell International's Outpost organization for their employees and volunteers. The last AIN group exhibition was held in January 2016 in Rotterdam.

The diverse styles of three members of AIN will be featured in this exhibition: AWC Member **Vesna Southwick** represents the US, Winnifred Bastian represents the Netherlands, and Margaret Chandler represents the UK. Winnifred has been a long-term member of this group, and primarily paints maritime scenes and Dutch landscapes with watercolors and oil. Margaret's stylistic tendency leans towards pointillism, and she mostly paints with acrylics and oils. Vesna paints in an expressionist style, but has a leaning towards abstract painting in her recent works using acrylic and oil paints. The list with titles of their exhibited paintings will be available at the front desk. These artists are looking forward to presenting their works to AWC Members and guests.





Continued from page 53

Jesus Christ Superstar

Tickets are on sale for a large-scale Englishlanguage production of this famous rock opera which tells the story of the last week in the life of Jesus as seen through the eyes of his best friend and betrayer Judas. The musical masterpiece by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the poignant lyrics of Tim Rice and unique rendition of Ted Neeley, the original star of the 1973 movie Jesus Christ Superstar, constitute an unforgettable experience. www.jesuschristmusical.nl December 20 – January 8 World Forum Theater Churchillplein 10, The Hague







Volunteer Luncheon





and and a





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The AWC was well

represented at the 4th of

July Picnic in Wassenaar.

This lovely donated cake

allowed us to raise some

extra funds.

Moving Sale:

Teak garden table & 5 chairs; New washer & dryer; microwave; two white IKEA 'Billy' full wall shelve units. half with drawers: Kurzweil keyboard & stool; selection of lamps and ceiling lights; things for cats – climbing tree, box; large ceramic indoor/ outdoor plant pots: extralong (220) king bed; IKEA desk; one tall ladder; four cherry stand-alone bookcases all with doors: everything must go by September 10. Contact: Robin Millington +31 655 143 640

Support Fellow AWC Members Find links to a large variety of businesses owned by AWC Members at www.awcthehague.org/

site/newcomers/businesslinks

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Member Privacy

Please be reminded that the AWC Membership List is for AWC Member reference only and use of this information in any communication other than AWC official business is strictly prohibited. Members may not share the list with anyone other than another AWC Member in good standing and never to any third party.

The AWC takes care to protect Member information and adherence to this policy is critical to maintain Member privacy. Members are asked to report suspected misuse of the list to any AWC Board Member.

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AWC is a Pet-Free Zone

As much as many of our Members love their pets, please do leave them at home as the AWC has a long-standing policy of no pets in the Clubhouse. Thank you for your understanding!

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